



THE JOYS OF LIVING WATER

2018

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

John 4:13-14

Jesus met a Samaritan woman at a well and asked her if she could give him a drink. For him to speak to her was remarkable, since at that time, females in society were demeaned. Not only that, but her Samaritan race was despised by the Jews. She was living in shame as a social outcast.

And yet, Jesus talked to her. She was amazed!

Consider what it would be like to be this woman—in Jesus' presence as he offers us this gift of

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living water. Can you imagine the kindness in his voice, his face expressing love, the closeness of spirit and warmth? The water he brings gives ample relief for our thirst. It's cool and refreshing, tasting better than any we've had before. Isn't it at our thirstiest, that water tastes best?

What was our thirst like before Jesus so thoroughly quenched it? What was that ache that would not go away?

Our throats were parched, as though we had toiled long in a dry land. We might have felt alone. Not feeling like we belonged—not feeling like we were a part of life.

But the fount of living water, Jesus himself, will gather us close. We don't need to feel alone. He fills us up, satisfying our soul, enfolding us with a love so great we won't be able to contain it. Can't keep it to ourselves. And so we share.

When you come to Jesus to drink of this living water he will come and live with you—the source of a virtual river of joy.

And here I'm wondering again . . . I wonder if that joy would bring with it a greater appreciation for the world around us—for the flowers and the skies?

Maybe there's more to this living water than we had thought. Maybe it also includes the feelings it brings to our everyday life. The awe, the wonder, the joy. Yes, the JOY.

Are you, like this woman at the well, thirsty for such living water? Jesus offers it to you. All you have to do is reach out to him and accept it. *You will never be thirsty.*

Thank you, Lord.

marja